



27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re. Industrial Action - Wednesday 1st February 2023

I am sorry to inform you that Westende Junior School will be restricting attendance on Wednesday 1st February due to industrial action by National education Union (NEU) members. The strike action is the result of a national dispute over pay.

Both Year 6 classes and the Acorns resource will remain open; however, pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 are being asked to stay at home as I am unable to provide a safe and secure environment for the children in those year groups because:

- Staff who intend to take industrial action do not have to legally inform the school of their decision and due to the number of Westende staff who are members of this union, it would be untenable to cover the affected classes.
- Staff who are not taking industrial action are not compelled to take the pupils into their class or undertake duties for those teachers who are on strike so cannot be redeployed.

For pupils attending the Acorns resource, we are opening as normal for the morning session and we request that children in Years 3, 4 and 5 are collected at 12.00 p.m. Year 6 pupils will be able to join their mainstream class for the afternoon session as usual, so they will remain in school until 3.15 p.m. If your child travels to school by taxi, the taxi service will operate in the morning and will collect the Year 6 pupils at the end of the school day. Children leaving at 12 p.m. will need to be collected by parents via the school office entrance. Whilst pupils are at home learning activities will be available in the Remote Learning section of the school website.

Aspens will provide a hot school meal for the Year 6 children who are staying in school. For all pupils in receipt of free school meals a packed lunch can be collected from the school office from 10.30 a.m. Please let us know if you require a packed lunch by 10 a.m. on Monday 30th January by clicking the link here: [Packed lunch order form](#)

Inspiring Children through Creativity, Challenge and Confidence

Mrs A Sykes
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Westende Junior School is an academy and part of The Circle Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (number 11031096) whose registered office is The Oval Offices, C/O, St Crispin's School, London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1SS. Tel: 0118 338 1961 www.thecircletrust.co.uk

I appreciate the frustration that industrial action may cause, and I will continue to work closely with the union representatives with regards to future planned strike days (Thursday 2nd, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of March); however, it may be prudent to make alternative childcare arrangements that could be called upon in the event of further year group closures on all proposed future strike dates.

Yours faithfully,



Andrea Sykes
Headteacher

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